

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 IO-10 OIC-02 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

ACDA-05 /076 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:TGRANT:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

EUR/SOV:RMILES (DRAFT)

EUR/SE:HKIRBY (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:RKUBAL (INFO)

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P R 090036Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 160781

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER

REF: ANKARA 5101

1. GIVEN LONG HIATUS SINCE THE LAST POLITICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING, WE ASSUME THAT AT JULY 9 MEETING THERE WILL BE RE-STATEMENTS OF RESPECTIVE NATIONAL POSITIONS ON NEED FOR REVISION OF POLITICAL GUIDANCE TO CENTO MILITARY PLANNERS. SHOULD OPPORTUNITY ARISE TO DO SO IN LOW KEY MANNER, US REP MIGHT RECALL THAT USG BELIEVES CURRENT GUIDANCE ADEQUATELY COVERS CENTO'S BASIC MILITARY MANDATE, I.E., DETERRENCE OF DIRECT SOVIET MILITARY THREAT TO REGIONAL MEMBERS.

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2. OUR READING OF SITUATION OVER PAST 18 MONTHS IS THAT TURKS AND IRANIANS HAVE MOVED CONSIDERABLY CLOSER TO OUR POSITION REGARDING REVISION. TURKS, IN PARTICULAR, MAY HAVE REALIZED THAT SWITCHING FOCUS OF MILITARY PLANNERS TO INTRA-REGIONAL CONTINGENCIES MIGHT INVOLVE THEM AS WELL AS US AND UK IN SOUTH ASIAN DISPUTE OR MIGHT ENCOURAGE CENTO INTEREST IN MATTERS WHICH TURKEY CONSIDERS TO BE STRICTLY INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SHOULD TURKISH REP AT JULY 9 MEETING CONTINUE TO FOLLOW LINE TURKEY HAS TAKEN IN OTHER CENTO FORA RECENTLY AND PROPOSE MEASURES RESTRICTING REVISION, US REP SHOULD SUPPORT HIM TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. CONCERNING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF CURRENT DRAFT PAPER ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE (CD/74/PWG/D1 REV. 2), WE CONCUR IN CHANGES PROPOSED IN UK LETTER OF MARCH 24, 1975, PARTICULARLY SUBSTITUTION OF "BUT" FOR "IF" IN CHAPTER II, PARAGRAPH 4, LINE 13. PAK LETTER OF MARCH 31, 1975 CITES INFORMATION TO EFFECT SOVIET UNION PROVIDED DIRECT SUPPORT TO INDIA DURING 1971 WAR. SOVIETS DID PROVIDE DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT THERE IS NO PROOF OF ANY DIRECT OPERATIONAL RPT OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

4. IN THEIR LETTERS UK AND PAK REPS NOTED NEED FOR CONSIDERABLE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER IV OF DRAFT PAPER. REFTEL REPORTS TURK MAY PRESENT NEW PROPOSALS ON CHAPTERS IV AND V. WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO LET THEM CONTINUE TO TAKE LEAD IN THIS REGARD. WHETHER OR NOT TURKS OR OTHERS PROPOSE AMENDMENTS AT JULY 9 MEETING, FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS WILL HAVE TO BE AMENDED OR DELETED BEFORE US COULD CONCUR IN THIS PAPER. PARAGRAPHS 17, 18, AND 22 INVOLVE INTRA-REGIONAL OR INTERNAL CONTINGENCIES WHICH DO NOT COME WITHIN CENTO'S PURVIEW. PARAGRAPH 20 EMBODIES SOME OPEN-ENDED OPERATIONAL AND ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS. WE WOULD WANT PARAMETERS OF THESE COMMITMENTS OUTLINED, PERHAPS BY PMDG AND CSO, BEFORE MAKING A JUDGMENT ON THIS PARAGRAPH. WE ASSUME "REGIONAL COUNTRIES" IN PARAGRAPH 20, LINE 3 REFERS TO REGIONAL MEMBERS ONLY AND NOT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IN PARAGRAPH 23, SUBPARAGRAPHS B, C, AND D ALSO FALL OUTSIDE CENTO'S PURVIEW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MEETINGS, MILITARY POLICIES, MILITARY PLANS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE160781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TGRANT:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-0177
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750772/aaaacmjh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 5101
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER
TAGS: MPOL, CENTO
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006